



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITY CHRISTMAS SPECIAL: NEW VEHICLE TAX INCREASE

*'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the City,
Not a creature was stirring, not even a council committee,
When all of a sudden, there arose such a clatter,
The Mayor had called for a special tax raising matter . . .*

Councilmember Charles K. Djou (Waikiki to Hawaii Kai) stated, "The City's move to dramatically increase the vehicle tax by 60% on Christmas Eve puts a lump of coal in the stockings of all Oahu taxpayers. I am extremely disappointed that the fiscal policy of Honolulu is to raise taxes every time a new spending demand arises. Honolulu residents and the Hawaii economy simply cannot afford more taxes. We must instead force City government to live within its means."

Because of actions taken by the City in 2003, Oahu residents will awaken on Christmas Day to find:

- If you own a car, it will cost more because the vehicle tax was increased by 60% (Bill 69).
- If you ride the bus, it will cost more because all bus fares were increased (Bill 53).
- If you prefer to just stay at home, it will cost you more because real property taxes were increased by the largest amount in City history (Reso. 03-57).

- If you don't own a home, but are thinking of building your home or buying a new home, that will now cost \$2,000 to \$3,000 more because the City raised all building and permit fees (Bill 19).
- If you want to hook up to the City sewer, that will cost you over three times as much (Bill 20).
- If you just want to visit a park, that may now cost you as the City may begin charging for visiting certain parks (Bill 3).
- If you want to see the fish at Hanauma Bay, may cost you more as the ticket prices were increased (Bill 31).
- If you want to go to the Blaisdell Center or Waikiki Shell, that may also cost you more as the fees for use of those facilities were hiked by the City (Bill 2).
- If you would like to throw out all of this garbage passed by the City this year, that too will cost you more as the waste tipping fee was also increased (Bill 17).

For a copy of any of the above-mentioned bills, please contact Councilmember Charles K. Djou's office.

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